

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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OCTOBER ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH TSIMSHIAN SILVER SPOON

A coin silver spoon is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for October.

The spoon, donated by former Curator Peter Corey, is identical to a silver spoon in June Hall's book, *Alaska Souvenir Spoons & Early Curio Trade*. The spoon was originally purchased at an Antiques Mall in the Seattle area; then offered for sale through an internet auction house. Hall believes the origin this spoon is Metlakatla because a similar spoon has *Metlakatla* engraved on it, suggesting this was the place of origin.



In the late nineteenth century, Native silver carvers began producing spoons, bracelets, barrettes, earrings, combs and a wide variety of other objects to sell in the growing art market. Many carvers used pounded out coins to form spoons, engraving them with a variety of designs. Many spoons reflected the Native form line designs while others showed a western influence of flora and scroll designs.

Museum staff is hoping to hear from anyone who owns, or has seen, other spoons like this. We wish to compare the pieces in hopes of eventually identifying the carver and confirming the spoon as being Tsimshian made.

The spoon will be on exhibit October 1-31 and can also be viewed on our website at www.museums.state.ak.us.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

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